# MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

<u>Requestor Name</u> <u>Respondent Name</u>

Elite Healthcare Fort Worth Accident Fund General Insurance

MFDR Tracking Number Carrier's Austin Representative

M4-16-0352-01 Box Number 06

**MFDR Date Received** 

October 9, 2015

# **REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY**

Requestor's Position Summary: "Patient is approved for 2 units 97140, 2 units 97112, and 4 units 97110."

**Amount in Dispute:** \$3,135.68

## **RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY**

<u>Respondent's Position Summary</u>: "Carrier stands by its reasons for denial as outline in the EOBs. Provider has not established that it is entitled to reimbursement of \$3,135.68."

Response Submitted by: Stone Loughlin & Swanson, LLP

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
February 6, 2015 through March 25, 2015	Physical Therapy Services	\$3,135.68	\$1,775.04

## FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and applicable rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

## **Background**

- 1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
- 2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203 sets out the reimbursement guidelines for professional medical services.
- 3. The insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
  - 119 Benefit maximum for this time period or occurrence has been reached
  - 168 Billed charge is greater than maximum unit value or daily maximum allowance for physical therapy/physical medicine services
  - 247 A payment or denial has already been recommended for this service
  - B13 Previously paid

- P12 Workers' compensation jurisdictional fee schedule adjustment
- 193 Original payment decision is being maintained

#### Issues

- 1. Are the insurance carrier's reasons for denial or reduction of payment supported?
- 2. What is the applicable Medicare billing policy?
- 3. What is the rule applicable to Division fee guidelines?
- 4. Is the requestor entitled to additional reimbursement?

## **Findings**

1. The insurance carrier denied disputed services with claim adjustment reason code 119 – "Benefit maximum for this time period or occurrence has been reached and 168 – Billed charge is greater than maximum unit value or daily maximum allowance for physical therapy/physical medicine services." 28 Texas Administrative Code 134.203 (b) states,

For coding, billing, reporting, and reimbursement of professional medical services, Texas workers' compensation system participants shall apply the following:

(1) Medicare payment policies, including its coding; billing; correct coding initiatives (CCI) edits; modifiers; bonus payments for health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) and physician scarcity areas (PSAs); and other payment policies in effect on the date a service is provided with any additions or exceptions in the rules.

Review of the submitted information finds;

No CCI edit or Medically Unlike edits exist for the codes in dispute.

The insurance carrier's denial reason is not supported. The disputed services will therefore be reviewed per applicable Division rules and fee guidelines.

2. The Medicare billing policy that effects the services in dispute is explained by, MLN Matters® Number: MM7050, Related Change Request (CR) #: 7050, Related CR Release Date: December 21, 2010, Effective Date: January 1, 2011 Related CR Transmittal #: R8260TN, Implementation Date: January 3, 2011,

Section 3134 of The Affordable Care Act added section 1848(c)(2)(K) of The Social Security Act, which specifies that the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall identify potentially misvalued codes by examining multiple codes that are frequently billed in conjunction with furnishing a single service. As a step in implementing this provision, Medicare is applying a new MPPR to the PE component of payment of select therapy services paid under the MPFS. The reduction will be similar to that currently applied to multiple surgical procedures and to diagnostic imaging procedures. This policy is discussed in the CY 2011 MPFS final rule.

Many therapy services are time-based codes, i.e., multiple units may be billed for a single procedure. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is applying a MPPR to the practice expense payment when more than one unit or procedure is provided to the same patient on the same day, i.e., the MPPR applies to multiple units as well as multiple procedures. Full payment is made for the unit or procedure with the highest PE payment. For subsequent units and procedures, furnished to the same patient on the same day, full payment is made for work and malpractice and 80 percent payment for the PE for services furnished in office settings and other non-institutional settings and at 75 percent payment for the PE services furnished in institutional settings.

For therapy services furnished by a group practice or "incident to" a physician's service, the MPPR applies to all services furnished to a patient on the same day, regardless of whether the services are provided in one therapy discipline or multiple disciplines; for example, physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech-language pathology.

The codes listed on the DWC060 for dates of service February 6, 2015 through March 25, 2015 are 97110 and 97140. However, as stated above "Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) for Selected Therapy

Services, applies to all services furnished to a patient on the same day." Therefore, all physical therapy services billed on the dates of service were calculated to ensure correct application of MPPR as required by Medicare and Division rules.

3. 28 Texas Administrative Code 134.203(c) states,

To determine the MAR for professional services, system participants shall apply the Medicare payment policies with minimal modifications.

- (1) For service categories of Evaluation & Management, General Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Radiology, Pathology, Anesthesia, and Surgery when performed in an office setting, the established conversion factor to be applied is (date of service yearly conversion factor).
- Procedure code 97140, service date February 6, 2015. For this procedure, the relative value (RVU) for work of 0.43 multiplied by the geographic practice cost index (GPCI) for work of 1.005 is 0.43215. The practice expense (PE) RVU of 0.4 multiplied by the PE GPCI of 0.995 is 0.398. The malpractice RVU of 0.01 multiplied by the malpractice GPCI of 0.772 is 0.00772. The sum of 0.83787 is multiplied by the Division conversion factor of \$56.20 for a MAR of \$47.09. Per Medicare policy, when more than one unit of designated therapy services is performed on the same day, full payment is made for the first unit of the procedure with the highest practice expense. Payment for each subsequent unit is reduced by 50% of the practice expense. This procedure does not have the highest PE for this date. The PE reduced rate is \$35.90 at 2 units is \$71.80.
- Procedure code 97112, service date February 6, 2015 not in dispute but calculation required to apply MPPR as required by Medicare billing policy. The Medicare fee is the sum of the geographically adjusted work, practice expense and malpractice values multiplied by the conversion factor. The MAR is calculated by substituting the Division conversion factor. For this procedure, the relative value (RVU) for work of 0.45 multiplied by the geographic practice cost index (GPCI) for work of 1.005 is 0.45225. The practice expense (PE) RVU of 0.48 multiplied by the PE GPCI of 0.995 is 0.4776. The malpractice RVU of 0.01 multiplied by the malpractice GPCI of 0.772 is 0.00772. The sum of 0.93757 is multiplied by the Division conversion factor of \$56.20 for a MAR of \$52.69. Per Medicare policy, when more than one unit of designated therapy services is performed on the same day, full payment is made for the first unit of the procedure with the highest practice expense. Payment for each subsequent unit is reduced by 50% of the practice expense. This procedure has the highest PE for this date. The first unit is paid at \$52.69. The PE reduced rate is \$39.27. The total is \$91.96.
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- Procedure code 97140, service date February 11, 2015. The Medicare fee is the sum of the geographically adjusted work, practice expense and malpractice values multiplied by the conversion factor. The MAR is calculated by substituting the Division conversion factor. For this procedure, the relative value (RVU) for work of 0.43 multiplied by the geographic practice cost index (GPCI) for work of 1.005 is 0.43215. The practice expense (PE) RVU of 0.4 multiplied by the PE GPCI of 0.995 is 0.398. The malpractice RVU of 0.01 multiplied by the malpractice GPCI of

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- Procedure code 97140, service date March 3, 2015. The Medicare fee is the sum of the
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- Procedure code 97110, service date March 3, 2015. The Medicare fee is the sum of the geographically adjusted work, practice expense and malpractice values multiplied by the conversion factor. The MAR is calculated by substituting the Division conversion factor. For this procedure, the relative value (RVU) for work of 0.45 multiplied by the geographic practice cost index (GPCI) for work of 1.005 is 0.45225. The practice expense (PE) RVU of 0.44 multiplied by the PE GPCI of 0.995 is 0.4378. The malpractice RVU of 0.02 multiplied by the malpractice GPCI of 0.772 is 0.01544. The sum of 0.90549 is multiplied by the Division conversion factor of \$56.20 for a MAR of \$50.89. Per Medicare policy, when more than one unit of designated therapy services is performed on the same day, full payment is made for the first unit of the procedure with the highest practice expense. Payment for each subsequent unit is reduced by 50% of the practice expense. This procedure does not have the highest PE for this date. The PE reduced rate is \$38.59 at 4 units is \$154.36.
- Procedure code 97140, service date March 4, 2015. The Medicare fee is the sum of the geographically adjusted work, practice expense and malpractice values multiplied by the conversion factor. The MAR is calculated by substituting the Division conversion factor. For this procedure, the relative value (RVU) for work of 0.43 multiplied by the geographic practice cost index (GPCI) for work of 1.005 is 0.43215. The practice expense (PE) RVU of 0.4 multiplied by the PE GPCI of 0.995 is 0.398. The malpractice RVU of 0.01 multiplied by the malpractice GPCI of 0.772 is 0.00772. The sum of 0.83787 is multiplied by the Division conversion factor of \$56.20 for a MAR of \$47.09. Per Medicare policy, when more than one unit of designated therapy services is performed on the same day, full payment is made for the first unit of the procedure with the highest practice expense. Payment for each subsequent unit is reduced by 50% of the practice expense. This procedure does not have the highest PE for this date. The PE reduced rate is \$35.90 at 2 units is \$71.80.
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- Procedure code 97140, service date March 16, 2015. The Medicare fee is the sum of the geographically adjusted work, practice expense and malpractice values multiplied by the conversion factor. The MAR is calculated by substituting the Division conversion factor. For this procedure, the relative value (RVU) for work of 0.43 multiplied by the geographic practice cost index (GPCI) for work of 1.005 is 0.43215. The practice expense (PE) RVU of 0.4 multiplied by the PE GPCI of 0.995 is 0.398. The malpractice RVU of 0.01 multiplied by the malpractice GPCI of 0.772 is 0.00772. The sum of 0.83787 is multiplied by the Division conversion factor of \$56.20 for a MAR of \$47.09. Per Medicare policy, when more than one unit of designated therapy services is performed on the same day, full payment is made for the first unit of the procedure with the highest practice expense. Payment for each subsequent unit is reduced by 50% of the practice expense. This procedure does not have the highest PE for this date. The PE reduced rate is \$35.90 at 2 units is \$71.80.
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- Procedure code 97140, service date March 19, 2015. The Medicare fee is the sum of the geographically adjusted work, practice expense and malpractice values multiplied by the conversion factor. The MAR is calculated by substituting the Division conversion factor. For this procedure, the relative value (RVU) for work of 0.43 multiplied by the geographic practice cost index (GPCI) for work of 1.005 is 0.43215. The practice expense (PE) RVU of 0.4 multiplied by the PE GPCI of 0.995 is 0.398. The malpractice RVU of 0.01 multiplied by the malpractice GPCI of 0.772 is 0.00772. The sum of 0.83787 is multiplied by the Division conversion factor of \$56.20 for a MAR of \$47.09. Per Medicare policy, when more than one unit of designated therapy services is performed on the same day, full payment is made for the first unit of the procedure with the highest practice expense. Payment for each subsequent unit is reduced by 50% of the practice expense. This procedure does not have the highest PE for this date. The PE reduced rate is \$35.90 at 2 units is \$71.80.

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- Procedure code 97140, service date March 24, 2015. The Medicare fee is the sum of the geographically adjusted work, practice expense and malpractice values multiplied by the conversion factor. The MAR is calculated by substituting the Division conversion factor. For this procedure, the relative value (RVU) for work of 0.43 multiplied by the geographic practice cost index (GPCI) for work of 1.005 is 0.43215. The practice expense (PE) RVU of 0.4 multiplied by the PE GPCI of 0.995 is 0.398. The malpractice RVU of 0.01 multiplied by the malpractice GPCI of 0.772 is 0.00772. The sum of 0.83787 is multiplied by the Division conversion factor of \$56.20 for a MAR of \$47.09. Per Medicare policy, when more than one unit of designated therapy services is performed on the same day, full payment is made for the first unit of the procedure with the highest practice expense. Payment for each subsequent unit is reduced by 50% of the practice expense. This procedure does not have the highest PE for this date. The PE reduced rate is \$35.90 at 2 units is \$71.80.
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- Procedure code 97140, service date March 25, 2015. The Medicare fee is the sum of the
  geographically adjusted work, practice expense and malpractice values multiplied by the
  conversion factor. The MAR is calculated by substituting the Division conversion factor. For this
  procedure, the relative value (RVU) for work of 0.43 multiplied by the geographic practice cost
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- 4. The total allowable reimbursement for the physical therapy services is \$5,089.92. This amount less the amount previously paid by the insurance carrier of \$3,314.88 leaves an amount due to the requestor of \$1,775.04. This amount is recommended.

# **Conclusion**

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$1,775.04.

## **ORDER**

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code Sections 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute. The Division hereby ORDERS the respondent to remit to the requestor the amount of \$1,775.04 plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130 due within 30 days of receipt of this Order.

<b>Authorized Sign</b>	<u>ature</u>
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		November , 2015
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date

#### YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, 37 *Texas Register* 3833, applicable to disputes filed on or after June 1, 2012.

A party seeking review must submit a **Request to Schedule a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision** (form **DWC045M**) in accordance with the instructions on the form. The request must be received by the Division within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the Division using the contact information listed on the form or to the field office handling the claim.

The party seeking review of the MFDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the** *Medical Fee* **Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1(d).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.